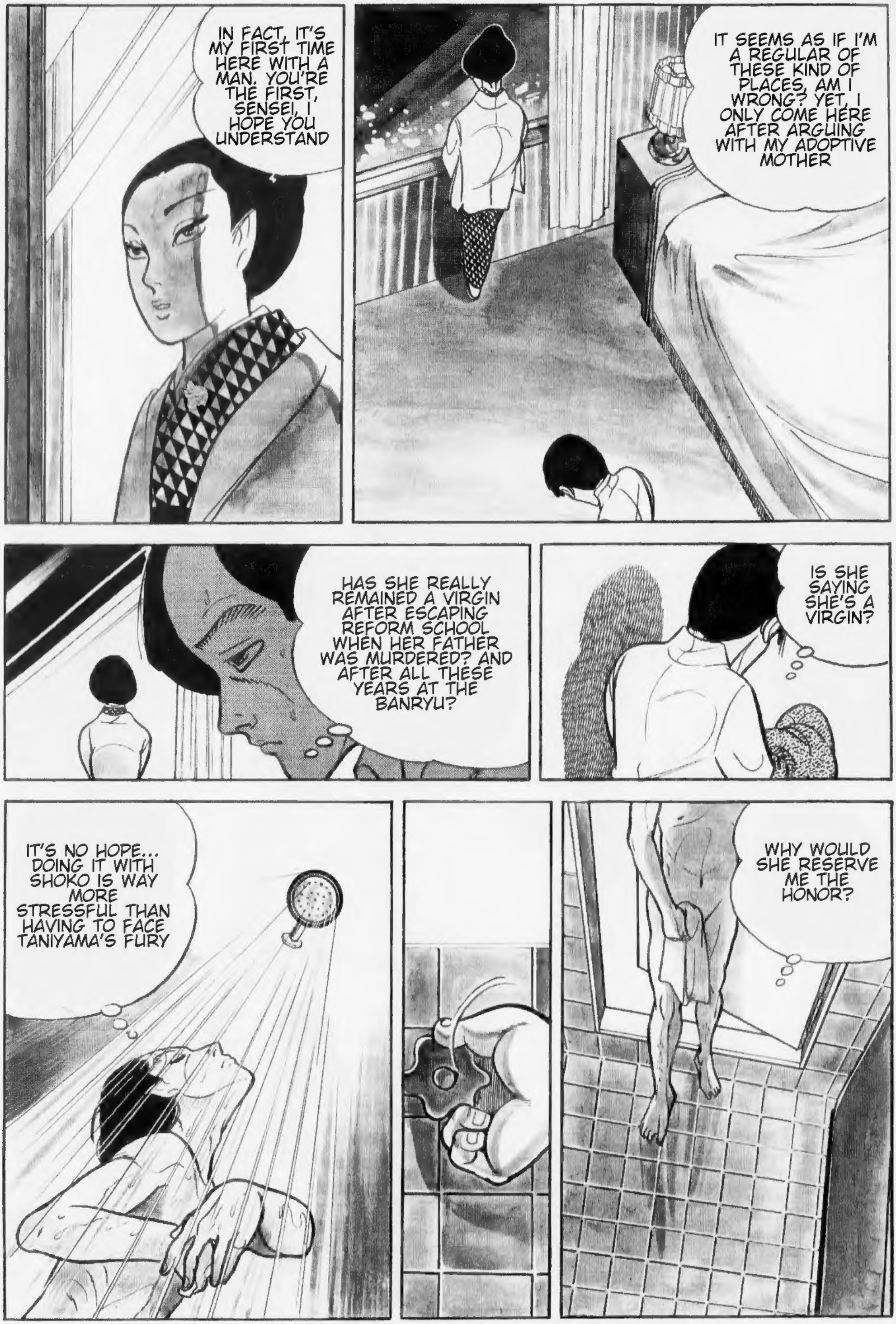
SHOKO-KUN... ERR, SHOKO, WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY!?

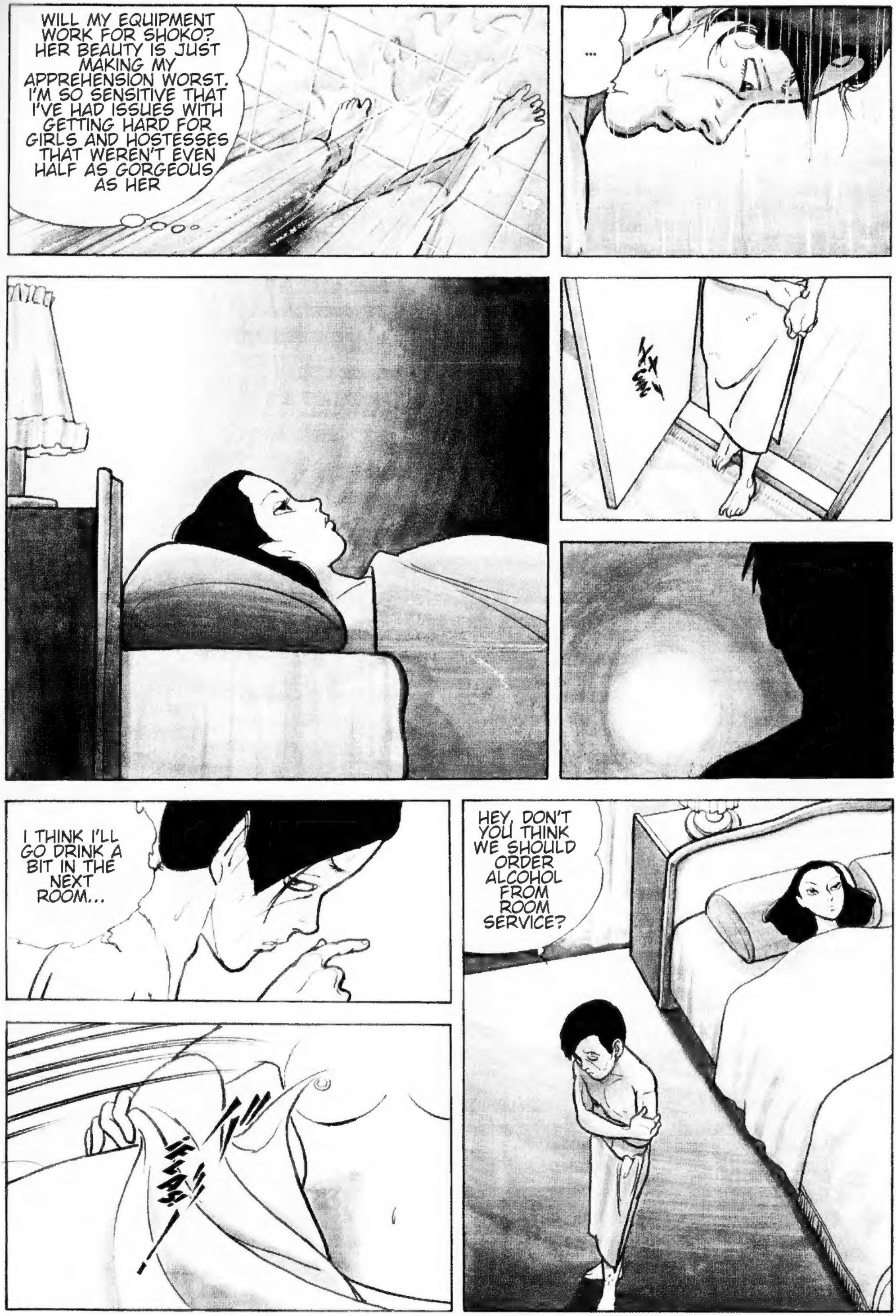
WHAT'S WRONG SENSEI?
BACK TO PLAYING THE SLUG?
BUT... WE CAN TALK HERE...
YOU HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL ME, NO? COME, I CHOSE A WELL SOUND-PROOFED ROOM. HIHIHI!
HMM... GHMM...
I'M... NOT...

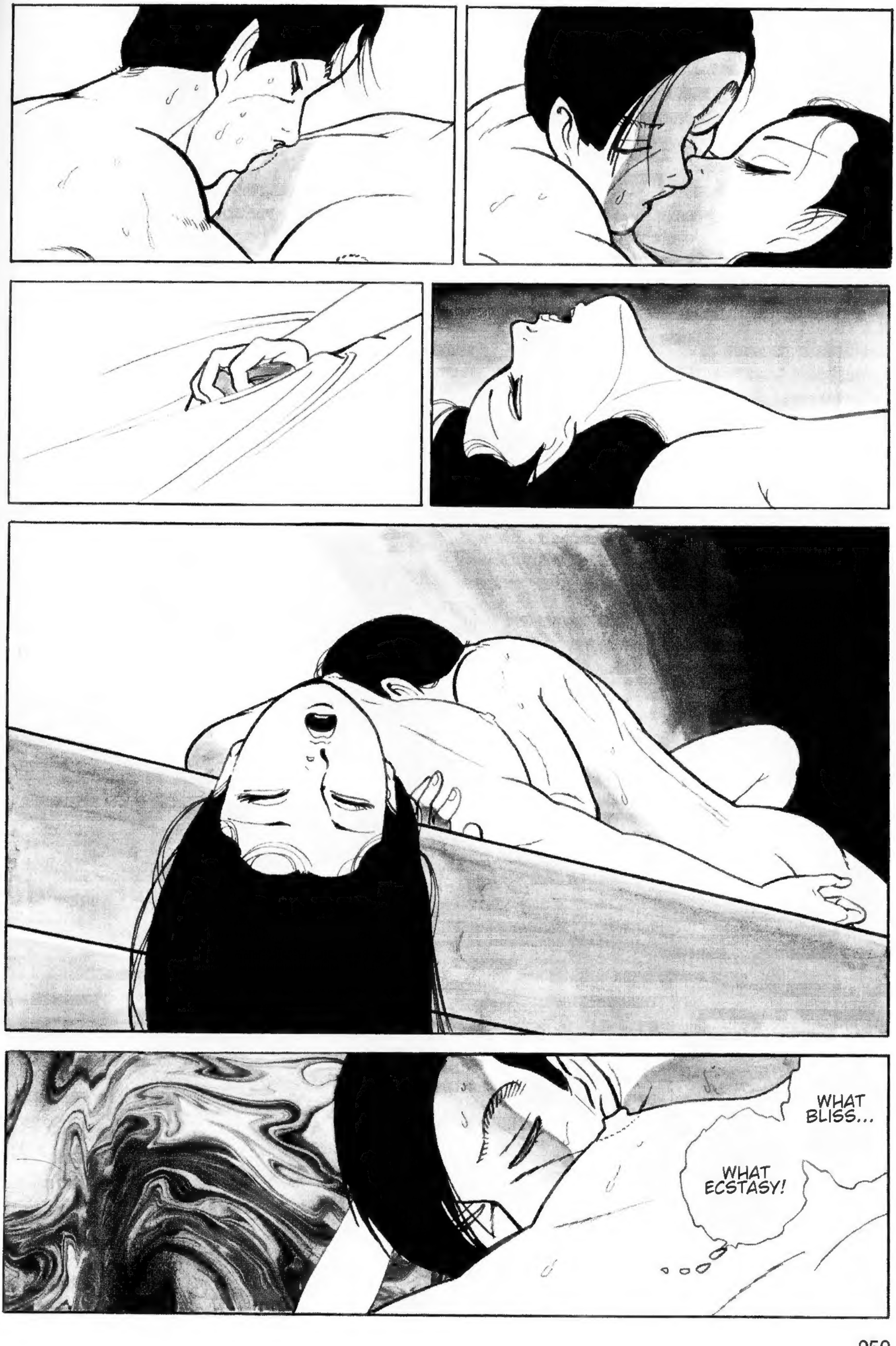
...!
6
AFTER YOU!
627
627

GO TAKE A SHOWER. I'LL TAKE A BATH
NOW THAT WE'RE HERE SENSEI, GET IT IN YOUR HEAD! HOW CAN AN AUTHOR BE SO BLIND TO A WOMAN'S FEELINGS?
UMM... YOU...
SHOKO TAKANO REALLY TRANSFORMED MR INTO AN ACTION MAN. I CAN'T GO BACK TO BEING A SLUG. I CAN'T!
MY FACADE DROPS WHEN I'M AROUND HER... I'VE GOT NOWHERE TO HIDE...



IN FACT, IT'S MY FIRST TIME HERE WITH A MAN. YOU'RE THE FIRST, SENSEI, I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND
IT SEEMS AS IF I'M A REGULAR OF THESE KIND OF PLACES, AM I WRONG? YET, I ONLY COME HERE AFTER ARGUING WITH MY ADOPTIVE MOTHER
HAS SHE REALLY REMAINED A VIRGIN AFTER ESCAPING REFORM SCHOOL WHEN HER FATHER WAS MURDERED? AND AFTER ALL THESE YEARS AT THE BANRYU?
IS SHE SAYING SHE'S A VIRGIN?
IT'S NO HOPE... DOING IT WITH SHOKO IS WAY MORE STRESSFUL THAN HAVING TO FACE TANIYAMA'S FURY
WHY WOULD SHE RESERVE ME THE HONOR?


WILL MY EQUIPMENT WORK FOR SHOKO? HER BEAUTY IS JUST MAKING MY APPREHENSION WORST. I'M SO SENSITIVE THAT I'VE HAD ISSUES WITH GETTING HARD FOR GIRLS AND HOSTESSES THAT WEREN'T EVEN HALF AS GORGEOUS AS HER
...
I THINK I'LL GO DRINK A BIT IN THE NEXT ROOM...
HEY, DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD ORDER ALCOHOL FROM ROOM SERVICE?


WHAT BLISS...
WHAT ECSTASY!

I'VE ONLY STARTED FEELING ALIVE THE DAY I FIRST MET HER!
COMPARED TO THIS MOMENT, THE WRITING CAREER I RISKED BY PISSING OFF TANIYAMA...
...IS A LOAD OF SHIT!

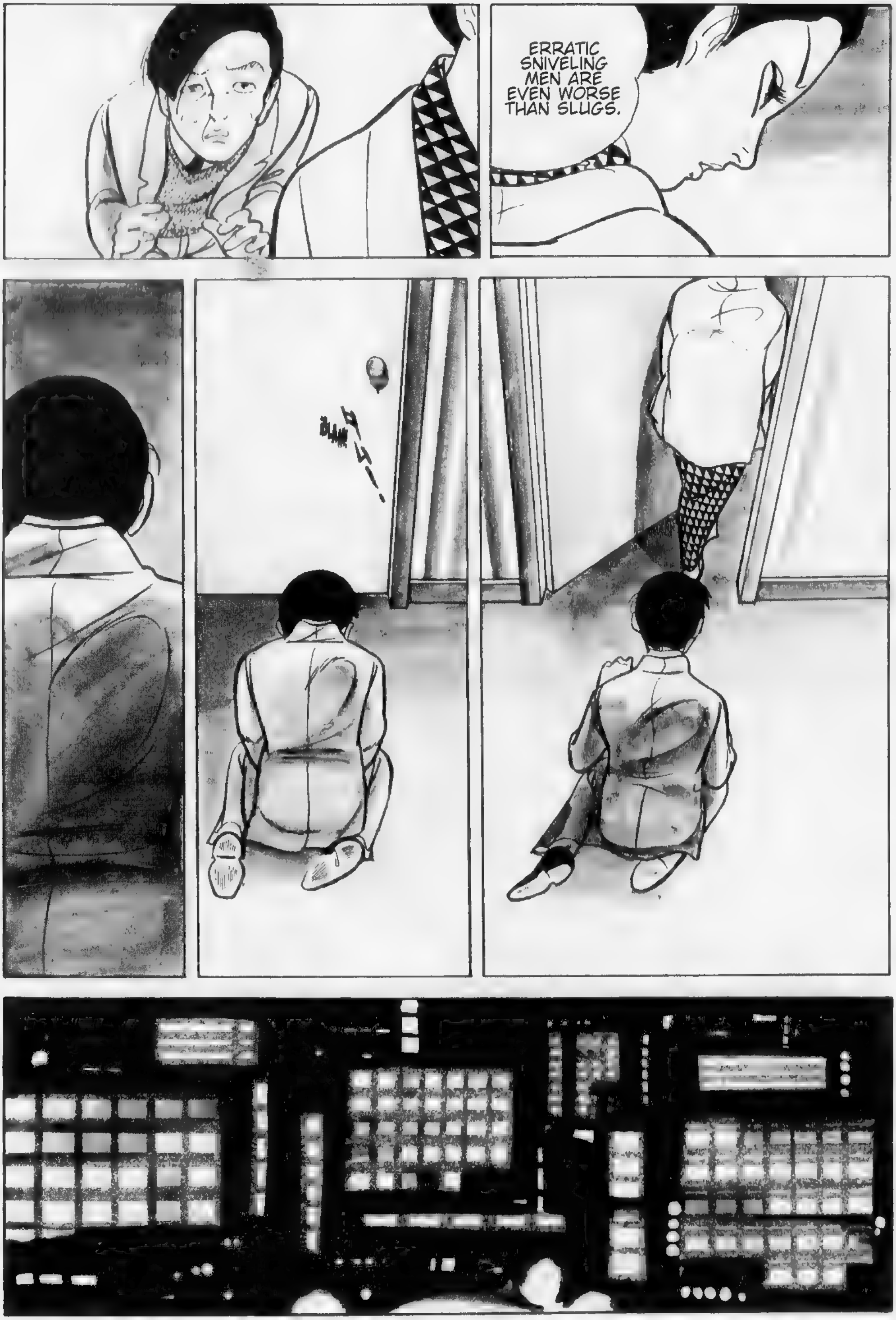
THANKS ...
IT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME, WAS IT?
OF COURSE!
YOU SHOULD BE PROUD...

VENI, VIDI, VICI... I FEEL AS THOUGH I'VE CONQUERED THE WORLD

SHOKO, WE STILL NEED TO TALK
WHAT IS IT?
SIT OVER THERE
SURE
IT'S ABOUT TANIYAMA-SENSEI. HE'S MY MENTOR
AH YES... HIM
HE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU
THAT IS WHAT MY ADOPTIVE MOTHER TOLD ME... BUT I CAN'T STAND HIM AT ALL!
YEAH, I GET IT. LISTEN, HE KNOWS THAT WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR SO LONG AND, BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED THE OTHER NIGHT, HE'S BECOME QUITE JEALOUS AND, TO BE HONEST, A REAL PAIN IN THE ASS
REALLY? HOW SO?

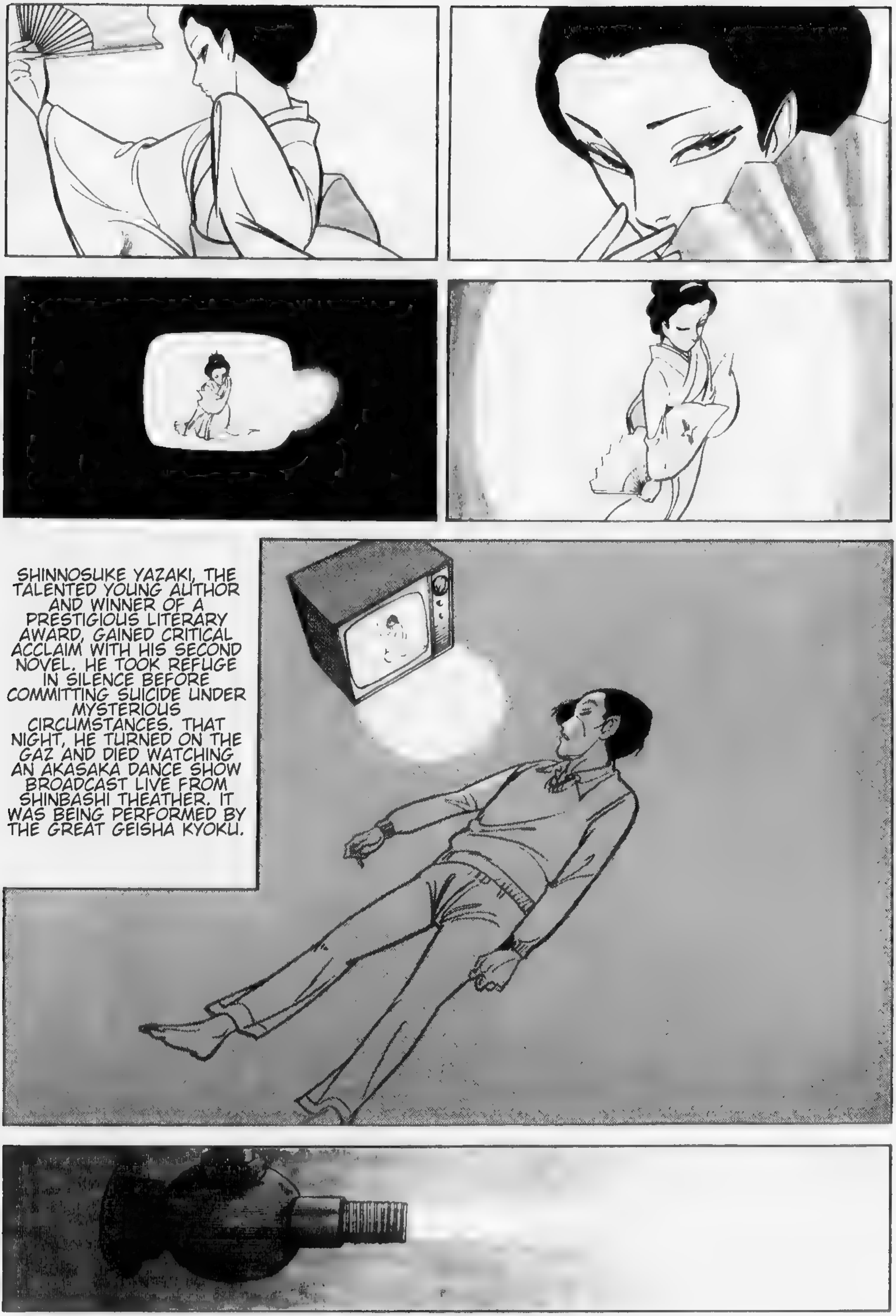
SO?
MY FIRST NOVEL, YOU KNOW THE ONE THAT WON THAT AWARD... WELL, ITS SERIALIZATION HAS BEEN POSTPONED, AND THAT'S VERY TROUBLESOME FOR A YOUNG WRITER LIKE ME!
HE WRITES EROTICA, HE KNOWS A LOT ABOUT INTIMATE RELATIONS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN. HE'LL LIKELY GUESS WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US. SHOKO, YOU'RE SMART, SO YOU SHOULD BE PRUDENT AROUND HIM
I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU HOW HE REACTED JUST BECAUSE WE KNEW AND LIKED EACH OTHER. IF HE CAME TO LEARN WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT, MY CAREER'S COMPLETELY SCREWED
I'M AN IDIOT, YOU'RE THE SMART ONE
UNDERSTOOD. I'LL ACT AS IF I'M ATTRACTED TO TANIYAMA-SENSEI. I'LL BRING HIM TO THE SEVENTH HEAVEN IN HOPES HE FORGETS ABOUT YOU
!
IF I WANT TO BECOME A GREAT AKASAKA GEISHA, THERE'S NO USE GETTING MAD OVER SUCH THINGS
ARE... ARE YOU MAD, SHOKO?
HMM... NO, I'M NOT MAD

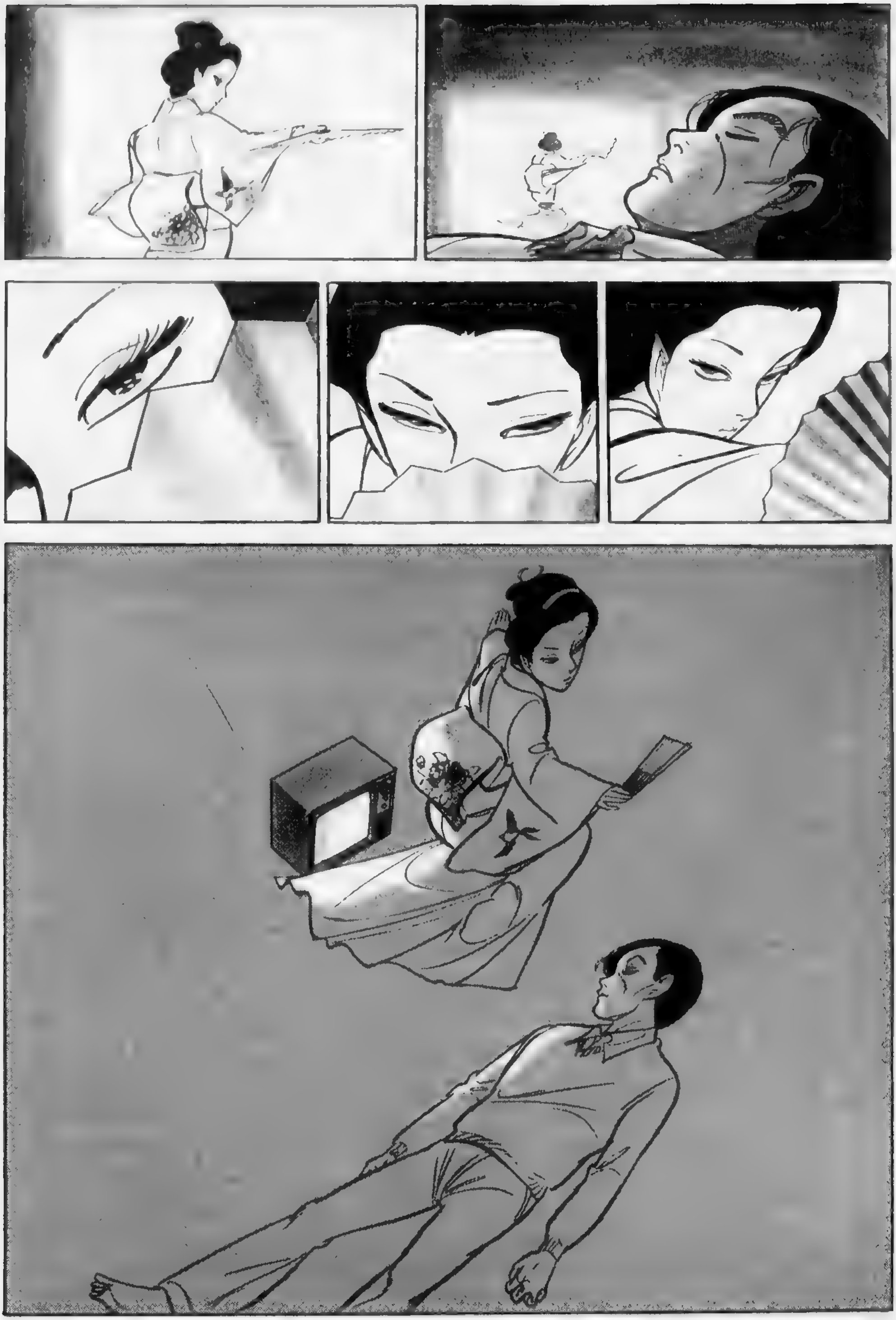
W-WAIT!
A GEISHA?!
BECOMING A GEISHA? THEN DOES THAT MEAN WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US WAS BECAUSE YOU FELT INDEBTED TO ME?
YES, I'LL FOLLOW IN MY ADOPTIVE MOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS. NO ONE FORCED MY HAND, BUT I FEEL I'M IN HER DEBT. I CAN'T BE A BURDEN ON HER ETERNALLY. I'LL BECOME A GEISHA AT THE BANRYU ONCE I'VE BECOME A REAL WOMAN
YES, YOU'RE SPOT ON. IF YOU WEREN'T SO KIND TO ME AT REFORM SCHOOL, I WOULDN'T BE HERE TODAY. I WOULD HAVE PROBABLY KILLED MYSELF BY NOW
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE YOU FOR MY FIRST TIME... I WANTED TO SURRENDER MY BODY TO YOU BEFORE MAKING IT A GEISHA'S TOOL... BUT AFTER A GOOD SHOWER, IT FEELS LIKE A DISTANT DREAM. BEFORE DEDICATING MYSELF TO SCAMMING BUSINESSMEN, POLITICIANS AND OTHER DECREPIT BALDIES, WHY NOT ENJOY A NIGHT WITH A PITIFUL FAILED AUTHOR?
PLEASE LET GO OF MY HAND, YAZAKI-SENSEI
TANIYAMA'S BULLYING IS NOTHING COMPARED TO MY LOVE FOR YOU! I MISSPOKE! PLEASE!
SHOKO, WAIT! I'M SORRY!
FARE-WELL!


ERRATIC SNIVELING MEN ARE EVEN WORSE THAN SLUGS.

THREE MONTHS LATER, SHOKO, THE ADOPTIVE DAUGHTER OF THE LUXURIOUS BANRYU'S OWNER, TOOK ONE OF THE KANJI FROM HER MOTHER' NAME, AS SHE WAS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS GEISHA OF YANAGIBASHI. SHE CHOSE THE NAME OF KYOKU AS SHE ENTERED THIS NEW WORLD.
KYOKU! KYOKU! DON'T REJECT ME AGAIN!
RUMORS OF THE ROMANCE BETWEEN SHOZO TANIYAMA, THE LITERARY WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN, AND THIS YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL GEISHA SPREAD THROUGHOUT ALL OF AKASAKA. KYOKU'S NAME WAS ON EVERYONE'S LIPS AS THE OLD WRITER ENDED UP GOING MAD. HIS OBSESSION WAS FACED WITH KYOKU'S COLDNESS TOWARDS HIM, CONDEMNING HIM TO SILENCE.

*AKASAKA DANCE


SHINNOSUKE YAZAKI, THE TALENTED YOUNG AUTHOR AND WINNER OF A PRESTIGIOUS LITERARY AWARD, GAINED CRITICAL ACCLAIM WITH HIS SECOND NOVEL. HE TOOK REFUGE IN SILENCE BEFORE COMMITTING SUICIDE UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES. THAT NIGHT, HE TURNED ON THE GAZ AND DIED WATCHING AN AKASAKA DANCE SHOW BROADCAST LIVE FROM SHINBASHI THEATHER. IT WAS BEING PERFORMED BY THE GREAT GEISHA KYOKU.



-THE END-

THE FIRST CHAPTER OF "A SHOWA ERA WOMAN" RELEASED ON JULY 23RD 1977 IN KODANSHA'S BRAND NEW SEINEN/GEKIGA MAGAZINE, *APACHE*, ALONGSIDE WORKS BY OTHER FAMOUS MANGAKA SUCH AS LEIJI MATSUMOTO AND SHOTARO ISHINOMORI. *APACHE* WAS QUITE A LUXURIOUS MAGAZINE: IT WAS A LARGER FORMAT THAN ITS COMPETITION AND CONTAINED FREQUENT COLOR PAGES.

THE REFORM SCHOOL SETTING WAS INSPIRED BY IKKI KAJIWARA'S OWN STAY AT A REFORM SCHOOL DURING HIS TEENAGE YEARS (THIS ALSO INSPIRED ASHITA NO JOE). KAZUO KAMIMURA'S THEATER BACKGROUND STRONGLY INSPIRED HIS ILLUSTRATIONS. THE LIGHTING USED IN THE FIRST CHAPTER'S OPENING SCENE IS AN OBVIOUS EXAMPLE OF THEATRICAL INSPIRATION. KAJIWARA WAS REPORTEDLY VERY PLEASED WITH THE FREQUENT LIBERTIES KAMIMURA TOOK WHEN ILLUSTRATING HIS SCRIPT.

ALL SEEMED WELL FOR A SHOWA ERA WOMAN. *APACHE*'S READERS RANKED IT IN THE TOP THREE SERIES THE MAGAZINE HAD TO OFFER. FROM THE SIXTH CHAPTER ONWARD, THE MAGAZINE PROUDLY INDICATED THE MANGA WOULD SOON BE ADAPTED INTO A MOVIE. HOWEVER, AS CHAPTER 10 RELEASED ON DECEMBER 8TH 1977, ANY MENTION OF ITS POTENTIAL ADAPTATION WERE REMOVED. *APACHE* WAS STRUGGLING AND CEASED PUBLICATION ON JANUARY 23RD 1978. THE MAGAZINE LASTED A MERE SIX MONTHS, LEAVING A SHOWA ERA WOMAN BARELY ENOUGH TIME TO REACH A CONCLUSION

ON THE FINAL PAGE, KAMIMURA PURPOSEFULY LEFT SHOKO'S FAN HALF-OPEN, SYMBOLIZING THAT ALTHOUGH THE MANGA WAS ENDING, HER LIFE WOULD STILL GO ON

YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE:

TERRIFYING GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL: LYNCH LAW CLASSROOM (1973, NORIFUMI SUZUKI)

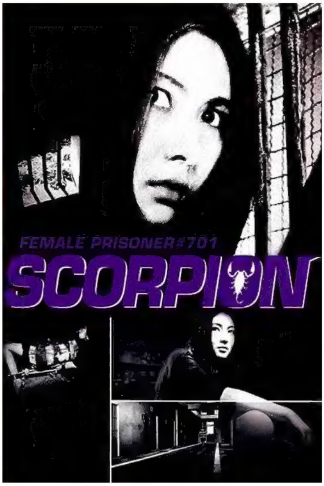
THREE NEW STUDENTS AT A SUPER-STRICT GIRL'S SCHOOL MUST FACE OFF WITH A REPRESSIVE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION, THE SADISTIC, MURDEROUS STUDENT DISCIPLINE BRIGADE AND CORRUPT POLITICIANS OVER THE MURDER/SUICIDE OF ONE OF THEIR FRIENDS. THEY'RE APPROACHED BY A BLACKMAILER WHO PROMISES TO HELP THEM EXACT VENGEANCE IN EXCHANGE FOR SETTING UP A CORRUPT LOCAL POLITICIAN, AND AIDED BY A INDEPENDENT SUKEBAN

STARRING MIKI SUGIMOTO, REIKO IKE AND RYOKO EMA

GIRL BOSS: ESCAPE FROM REFORM SCHOOL (1973, SADAO NAKAJIMA)

GIRL BOSS RURIKO AND HER CELLMATES ESCAPE FROM A GREEDY CORRUPT REFORM SCHOOL THAT'S MORE INTERESTED IN CHEATING THE GOVERNMENT OUT OF MONEY THAN REFORMATION. EACH HAVING THEIR OWN REASONS FOR ESCAPING, THEY GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. WITH THE HELP OF A YOUNG MECHANIC, WHO'S ALSO ON THE RUN, RURIKO TRIES TO REALIZE HER DREAM OF LEAVING THE ISLAND OF JAPAN BEHIND. BUT THE AUTHORITIES ARE ALWAYS ONE STEP BEHIND HER...

STARRING MIKI SUGIMOTO, RYOKO EMA AND NOBUO KANEKO



FEMALE PRISONER SCORPION: #701 (1972, SHUNYA ITO)

AFTER BEING CRUELLY SET UP AND DECEIVED A DETECTIVE IN COHORTS WITH THE MOB WITH WHOM SHE WAS WHOLE-HEARTEDLY IN LOVE, NAMI MATSUSHIMA IS SENT TO A FEMALE PRISON FULL OF SADISTIC GUARDS AND DISOBEDIENT PRISONERS. HER DESIRE FOR REVENGE KNOWS NO BOUNDS. BASED ON A MANGA BY TORU SHINOHARA

STARRING MEIKO KAJI, RIE YOKOYAMA AND FUMIO WATANABE

THANK YOU FOR READING!

-COQUELICOTSCANS